

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN XMB-07

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DRAFTED BY XMB: JCFLEIG

APPROVED BY EB/ OCA/ REP: LAKLIEFORTH

XMB: DBOSTWICK

NEA/ TUR: RDILLON

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R 252100 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD

SUBJ: EXIMBANK PRELIMINARY COMMITMENTS FOR TURKEY

1. PURSUANT TO DISCUSSIONS INITIATED DURING EXIMBANK CHAIRMAN KEARNS' S VISIT TO TURKEY IN NOV, 1972, THE TURKISH MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND EXIMBANK CONCLUDED, IN APR 1973, A PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENT COVERING EXIMBANK ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF THIS ARRANGEMENT IS THAT EXIMBANK PRELIMINARY COMMITMENTS INVOLVING OVER \$1 MILLION WILL BE REFERRED TO THE MIN OF FINANCE FOR REVIEW BEFORE THE PC' S ARE ISSUED. THE ARRANGEMENT ALSO PROVIDES THAT IF THE MIN FEELS THAT THE PROPOSED PURCHASES ARE NOT IN KEEPING WITH TURKEY' S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, THE MIN MAY SO INFORM EXIM AND EXIM WILL NOT ISSUE THE PC. THE BASENCE OF A NEGATIVE REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS OF EXIM' S QUERY IS TO BE CONSTRUED AS APPROVAL OF THE PC.

2. THE FIRST THREE PC' S TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE NEW GROUND RULES
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WERE APPROVED BY THE EXIM BOARD IN EARLY JUNE AND REFERRED TO THE MIN OF FINANCE. THE FIRST, REQUESTED BY CCA ELECTRONICS, COVERED \$5 MILLION OF EQUIPMENT FOR TURKISH RADIO AND TV. THE SECOND COVERED A PROPOSED SALE OF UP TO \$45 MILLION OF RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES BY EITHER GE OR GM, WHO WERE COMPETING AND EACH OF WHOM HAD REQUESTED PC' S. THE THIRD WAS A PC REQUESTED BY NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL BANK ON BEHHALF OF US TEXTILE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS FOR A PROPOSED SALE TO YIFAS YESILYURT IPLIK FAKBRIKASI OF \$3.3 MILLION. MIN OF FINANCE SPECIFICALLY REFUSED TO CONCUR IN FIRST TWO PC' S AND REQUESTED THAT EXIM WITHHOLD ISSUANCE OF THIRD.

3. EXIM NATURALLY IS PUZZLED BY THESE REPLIES, SINCE IN FIRST TWO CASES PROPOSED US SUPPLIERS IN THEIR PC APPLICATIONS STATED THAT THEY WERE RESPONDING TO PUBLISHED BID INVITATIONS. EXIM BELIEVES IT VERY IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY AT OUTSET OF NEW ARRANGEMENT, THAT THE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE NOT BE USED AS A TOOL AGAINST US SUPPLIERS, AS MIGHT BE THE CASE IF PROPOSED CONTRACT PRICES ARE MISUNDERSTOOD OR IF THE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE BECOMES A DEVICE FOR ELIMINATING PROSPECTIVE SUPPLIERS WITHOUT GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUOTE FINANCING OR OTHERWISE NEGOTIATE. ALSO, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT MIN OF FINANCE MIGHT VIEW CONCURRENCE IN THE PC AS A COMMITMENT ON ITS PART, WHEN IN FACT SUCH CONCURRENCE MERELY GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS AND IN NO WAY COMMITS THE MIN TO ANY FOLLOW- ON GUARANTEE.

4. IN VIEW OF EXIM' S CONCERN OVER THIS POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING, WHICH, IF THE PATTERN CONTINUES, WOULD EFFECTIVELY HAMPER EXIM' S EFFORTS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO BOTH US SUPPLIERS AND TURKISH CUSTOMERS,

EMB IS REQUESTED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION WITH MIN OF FINANCE. SUCH ACTION SHOULD INCLUDE ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER MIN MISUNDERSTANDS EITHER THE EXIM PC PROCEDURE OR THE OPERATING PROCEDURE, OR POSSIBLY BOTH, AND WHETHER MIN INTENDS TO CONTINUE THIS RESTRICTIVE APPROACH IN FUTURE. IF LATTER IS TRUE, EXIM WILL CONSIDER WITHDRAWING FROM OPERATING PROCEDURE. ROGERS

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